

Section 52: Children's Foster Care Services

Children's foster care services means a living arrangement in which an individual under the age of eighteen (18) lives in the private home of a principal caregiver who is unrelated to the individual and has no legal responsibility to support the individual. BDDS will only approve a foster placement for a child in unusual circumstances and only if the child cannot receive foster placement through the FSSA Office of the Division of Family and Children or services via the Department of Education. Necessary support services are provided by the principal caregiver as part of children's foster care

Separate payment will not be made for homemaker or chore services furnished to an individual receiving children's foster care, since these services are integral to and inherent in the provision of children's foster care services.

The total number of individuals living in the home who are unrelated to the caregiver may not exceed three (3).

This service is only reimbursable through state funded services (not available through Medicaid Waiver services)

52.1 Unit of Service

1 day of services

52.2 Rates

There are three levels of rates. The Individualized Support Team (IST) determines what level of supports are required for the individual, based on what services an individual would utilize if foster care services were not available

A Service Planner must be completed showing the services and amounts of services required in another setting. This will help demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the individual receiving Children's Foster Care services. If there are changes in the individual's condition that may call for a change in the level of service, the IST will redetermine what level of supports the individual requires, with ultimate approval given according to who can approve a specific level of service

- a. Level 1 – Approved by Service Coordinator
- b. Level 2 – Approved by District Mgr.
- c. Level 3 – Approved by Central Office

Issues to consider in determining which tier of services the individual receives include the amount of time the foster family will need to spend in 1) health and safety management; 2) challenges and experiences aimed at increasing a person's ability to live a lifestyle that is compatible with the person's interest and abilities; 3) modification or improvement of functional skills; 4) guidance and direction for social/emotional support; and 5) facilitation of both the physical and social integration of a person into typical family routines and rhythms

52.3 Activities Allowed

Reimbursable activities under children's foster care services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Personal care and services
- b. Homemaker/chore services
- c. Attendant care and companion care services
- d. Medication oversight
- e. Respite for the foster parent (funding for this is included in the per diem paid to the service provider)
- f. Other appropriate supports as described in the Individualized Support Plan

52.4 Activities Not Allowed

Activities that are not reimbursable through Children's Foster Care Services include:

- a. Residential Living Allowance and Management Services are not available to individuals receiving Children's Foster Care
- b. Children's Foster Care Services provided in the home of a caregiver who is related by blood or marriage, in any degree, to the individual are not allowed
- c. Payment for room and board is not available to individuals receiving Children's Foster Care (Social Security Benefits should be used to pay for room and board as well as for personal needs) (\$80.00/month or as reflected in the BDDS State Line Guidelines Policy)

52.5 Service Standards

Children's Foster Care Services must be reflected in the Individualized Support Plan

- a. Services must address needs (i.e. developmental needs, vocational needs, etc.) identified in the person centered planning process and be outlined in the Individualized Support Plan
- b. Other services such as Community Habilitation and Participation Services, Transportation, etc. may be added to the individual's Cost Comparison Budget or ICLB; however, reimbursement would be through those services, not through Children's Foster Care Services
- c. 10% of the total per diem amount is intended for use by the provider for respite care as needed. It is the provider's responsibility to approve any providers of respite chosen by the family
- d. The provider determines the total amount per month paid to the foster parent
- e. The agency's administrative/supervision fee comes from the remaining total amount and includes the following duties:
 - 1. Publish written policies and procedures regarding foster parent support services
 - 2. Maintain financial and service records to document services provided to the individual

3. Establish a criteria for the acceptance of the foster parent, screen potential foster parents for qualities of stability, maturity, and experiences so as to ensure the safety and well being of the individual, and obtain a criminal background and reference check
4. Coordinate/provide adequate initial training and ongoing training, consultation and supervision to the foster parent
5. Provide for the safety and well being of the individual by inspection of environment for compliance with DDRS policies, and procedures, including, but not limited to, the provider and case management standards found in 460 IA 6
6. Reimburse foster parent

52.6 Provider Qualifications

To be approved to provide Children's Foster Care Services, an applicant shall:

- a. Be an entity approved to provide supported living services under 460 IAC 6; and
- b. Certify that, if approved, the provider shall employ only those individuals who meet the qualifications set out in 460 IAC 6-14-5

52.7 Documentation Standards

Children's Foster Care Services documentation includes:

- a. Services outlined in Individualized Support Plan

Documentation by Providers:

- a. Written policies and procedures, including for screening and accepting foster parents
- b. Maintain financial and service records to document services provided to the individual
- c. Document provision of training to foster parents according to agency policies/procedures
- d. Reimbursement of foster parent

Families:

- a. One entry per day detailing an issue concerning the individual
- b. Entry should detail any goal-oriented activities, tying those into measurable progress toward the individual's goal (as identified in the ISP)
- c. The entry should also include any significant issues concerning the individual, including:
 1. Health and safety management
 2. Developmental challenges and experiences aimed at increasing an individual's ability to live a lifestyle that is compatible with the individual's interest and abilities
 3. Modification or improvement of functional skills
 4. Guidance and direction for social/emotional support
 5. Facilitation of both the physical and social integration of an individual into typical family routines and rhythms